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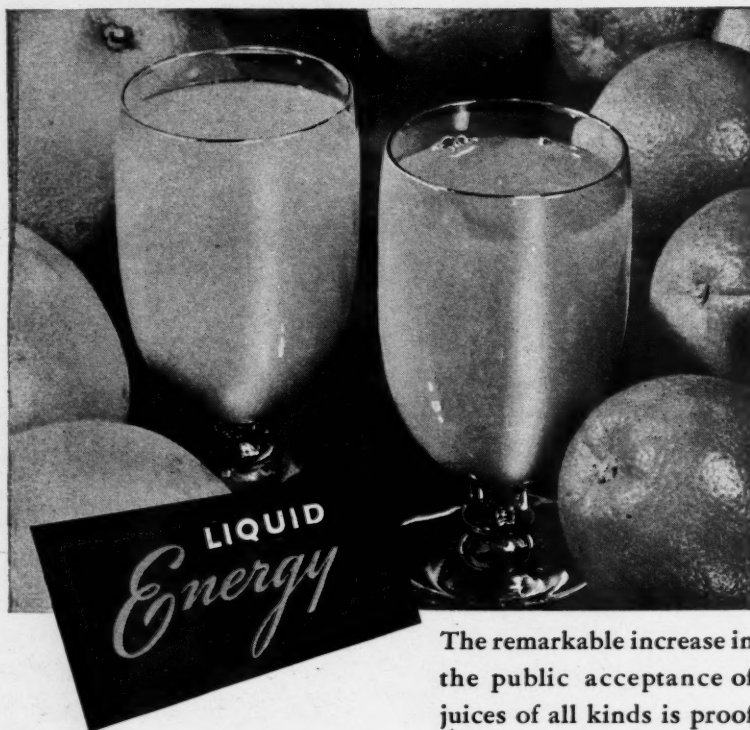
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The **CAMPING** MAGAZINE



MAY-JUNE

1943



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Revolution and Camp Councils

By

Bert Gold

Irene Kauffman Settlement, Pittsburgh, Pa.

IT WAS all the fault of Nelson Eddy and Jeannette MacDonald. Not that Mr. Eddy and Miss MacDonald intended to instigate it—not at all. As a matter of fact, to this day they are probably completely oblivious to the historic role they played in developing a major tradition at Laurel "Y" Camp.

The beginning was in 1940 on the day after the campers had made their monthly trip into our nearest town to taste once again of the fruits of civilization—which to them meant ice-cream sundaes and a movie. It was here that the team of Eddy and MacDonald entered the scene, for they were appearing in the one local movie house in one of their current pictures. "New Moon" I think it was called, and in it Mr. Eddy leads a band of revolutionaries to the stirring refrain of Sigmund Romberg's "Give me some men, some stout-hearted men" while MacDonald proudly looks on as she occasionally lends an obligatto.

How much of that movie remained with the campers it would be difficult to estimate. Certainly, however, that particular song made a deep impression. The campers sang it all the way home, and the next day—the day of the revolution—they awoke with the song on their lips. They came to breakfast singing it, and after breakfast proceeded to clean their bunks still humming the tune.

In the older boys' unit, cleanup had proceeded more or less along its usual course and the more efficient campers were making their way to the unit recreation hall to await the others for their previously scheduled unit meeting. One of the more imaginative counselors was leading the way swinging a broom, and singing for "some stout-hearted men". The campers caught the spirit quickly. Brooms, with some stretch of the imagination, became swords, and towels wrapped around their midribs became sashes. "Let's capture the administration buildings," shouted one of the boys. "Let's get the other units first," added another. As the excitement increased, the twenty-four boys divided themselves into four groups of six, quickly planned their revolutionary strategy—and with the unit meeting in limbo—the game of "revolution" began.

All morning long we played revolution. At first, the revolutionaries set out to capture the counselors and hold them for trial. Some of the counselors re-

sisted. The revolutionaries themselves took sides. A counter-revolution broke out, and for the rest of the morning it was a battle to the "death" between the revolutionaries and the counter-revolutionaries. It was interesting, however, that each side respected camp property, and agreed not to interfere with the administration of the kitchen and the office.

That night the staff discussed the morning's activity. We recognized the fun inherent in this kind of dramatic play. We praised the counselor for using the song to stimulate the activity, and we all agreed that this spontaneous game had given the whole camp one of those "lifts" that every now and then we succeed in capturing at camp. Then we began asking ourselves some questions. "Had we as 'educators' made as full use of the revolution as we might have? What would have happened if the counselors had permitted themselves to be captured and tried? What kind of charges would have been brought against them, and what sort of hostilities would the campers have expressed? Would such an expression of hostility have any therapeutic effects? Could we have strengthened the democratic pattern of camp life by having taken this 'game' more seriously?" We did not have the answers to these questions, but dimly we began to perceive the educational possibilities that are inherent in play situations of this kind.

Revolution was not played again that summer, although every now and then, campers would make reference to it. However, towards the middle of the following summer, in the last week of July, 1941, a few of the boys who had been to camp the previous year began idly to inquire about the difference between a revolution and a rebellion. These seemed to be more than just innocent questions, and we sensed that revolution was once again to rear its ugly head. Fortified with the experience of the previous summer, the staff bided its time and patiently waited. Then, one morning it struck—the revolution was on us!

This time the campers had organized quietly and carefully. Details were sent out to capture the counselors and bring them to the library in back of the main recreation hall, while other details summoned all the campers to the recreation hall itself. The counselors, for the most part, allowed themselves to be captured and brought to the "prison". While

under guard, they were able to discuss a common plan of action. The campers were to be permitted to present their charges while we, on our part, would strive to emphasize the principles of freedom of speech, trial by jury, and the orderly processes of self-government.

The Head Counselor was the first to be tried. He was brought before a judge—one of the older girls—and the jury, comprised of six boys and six girls. The Revolutionary Committee presented a list of four or five charges, the most important of which were, first, that he did not permit the Camp Council (consisting of campers elected by and from the units) the full power that was rightfully theirs, and second, that he was too strict about the rules in the Mess Hall. The Judge immediately asked for a vote from the Jury. At this point, the Head Counselor intervened. "Is this a revolution based on justice?" he asked, "If it is, do I not have the right to be heard in my own defense?" After a hasty consultation, he was permitted a two-minute defense. Setting a tone for the rest of the staff, the Head Counselor attempted to treat each charge seriously and realistically, bringing in wherever possible, the rationale behind camp rules. His defense heard, the Jury sentenced him to three whacks with a badminton paddle, which were duly administered on the designated spot.

In quick order, the rest of the staff was tried, at first singly and then by units. Some of the charges brought against the counselors had a basis in reality, while others had none, but were simply used as an excuse to administer a swat, and thus directly to express aggression against authority.

As the "swat session" came to a close, one of the counselors raised a question to the entire camp. What was to be done now? After all, many real complaints had been presented. How were they to be handled so that the matters which were wrong could be righted? The campers made suggestions. The most popular one was that the revolutionaries appoint a Committee to meet with the Camp Council to discuss all the complaints that had been presented. A committee of non-Council members was quickly elected, and arrangements were made for them to meet with the Camp Council immediately after lunch.

The Revolutionary Committee came to the meeting prepared with a long list of suggestions. Each was carefully considered by the Camp Council and voted on separately. The suggestions were, by and large, mature and reasonable. The swimming procedure was clumsy and needed changes; a new method of conducting singing in the Mess Hall was decided upon; a class in outdoor cooking was instituted so that campers would be better prepared for cook-outs; a more solemn flag raising ceremony was agreed upon; a new seating arrangement in the Mess Hall was worked out. These and many other matters were

carefully discussed throughout the afternoon.

At dinner that evening, the secretary of the Camp Council read the minutes of the meeting to the entire camp and our second revolution was over. That night the staff once again discussed the revolution. Did we now have the answers to those questions which we had asked ourselves last year? To some extent, we did. If properly controlled and accepted, the expression of the campers' hostile feelings was probably healthy. Certainly once expressed, it freed the campers to move forward constructively. By having the Camp Council take action on the specific suggestions, it was possible for us to proceed from a revolutionary to a constitutional level. The campers were given a thrilling experience in what was really the essence of direct democracy, and were helped to see that authority also involves responsibility.

The Revolution is now an accepted tradition with us. Our Revolution this last summer was once again instituted by the campers themselves. The form has now taken definite shape. The counselors are captured and brought before the whole camp. All the campers' suggestions, both positive and negative, are brought out and then acted upon by the Council.

It all started in fun—and it still continues to be fun. But something new has been added! The Revolution has become a socially accepted way by which the campers can express their criticism of adult procedures, and of their own elected body—the Camp Council. As far as the latter is concerned, our Revolutions have brought to light several interesting items.

Like most Camp Councils, ours was composed of elected representatives from the living units that make up our camp. It met every now and then, and attempted to plan activities for the whole camp. And like most Camp Councils, ours arose out of a desire to forge some kind of mechanism that would enable the campers to participate more fully and democratically in the planning and decision-making processes that take place in camp. However, the intensity and the variety of complaints lodged against the Council by the Revolutionaries demonstrated to us that we had not been as successful as we might have been in meeting our desire.

Our staff spent many nights discussing the criticisms, both spoken and implied, that the Revolutionaries had brought against the Camp Council. We used these criticisms as a basis for trying to set down some principles regarding how to form and work with Councils. We arrived at the following recommendations:

1. *The formation of the Council should arise out of some particular need felt by the campers themselves.* Living at camp provides many opportunities for campers to come together to plan and make decisions. What kind of a July 4th celebration should

the camp have? Who is to take care of picking up the paper that accumulates between the units? Questions like these are constantly arising. The campers are willing and eager to elect representatives to discuss these problems. No sooner are they solved, when other problems arise. It is not long before the campers themselves see the need for a continuing organization which would attempt to solve all such problems as they present themselves. A Camp Council which forms itself, so to speak, in this way has a much better chance for constructive activity and survival than has one which is formed at the instigation of adults, fully endowed to meet all situations.

2. *The delegates to the Camp Council should be democratically elected.* There had been no doubt in our minds that our Council members had been democratically elected. Nevertheless, some of the Revolutionaries claimed that counselors had influenced the vote. On analyzing this claim, we discovered that some counselors, in their eagerness to have the proper delegates elected, had been guilty of taking sides. Unfortunately, some of the staff had wanted a democratic form of government but had not had enough confidence in the democratic process itself to permit the campers freely to choose their own representatives.

3. *The Camp Council should be run by the campers themselves and not by an adult.* One of the bitterest charges made by our Revolutionaries was that the Council was run by a staff member. We discovered that it was important not only to give the Council members the feeling that they were running their own affairs—but we, ourselves, must feel that they should. We could not afford to make plans at a staff meeting and then attempt to get the Council to think that they themselves had made the plans. Children are quick to sense when an adult provides democratic leadership, and when he imposes, whether that imposition be by direct authority or by subterfuge.

4. *The powers of the Camp Council should be clearly understood.* As we discussed the Camp Council at staff meetings, we began to realize that we ourselves were not at all certain about what powers the Council had. How then could the campers know? The Council had the power to plan a circus for the entire camp—certainly, but did it have the power to determine what kind and how much food should be served at the circus? It was within the Council's function to discuss having a longer swim period—certainly, but did it have the power to make a decision on this? Or did it have to consult the staff? Many times troublesome difficulties would have been avoided had we all, campers and staff, been clear about the areas in which the Camp Council could function as well as the areas in which it could not.

5. *Wherever possible, the Council should be given administrative, as well as program, responsibilities.*

When we begin to define more clearly the duties and responsibilities of the Council, it would be well to consider the wisdom of granting the Council definite administrative responsibilities. Is there any reason why campers cannot have responsibility for menu planning—provided they have a clear understanding beforehand of budgetary limitations as well as the health and diet factors which the camp must enforce? Are there not many spots in which campers can take actual responsibility for administering part of a program budget and making the choice of how the money should be spent? And certainly, this coming summer, with the difficulties that will be prevalent in securing adequate maintenance help, this problem can become a definite responsibility of the campers through their Camp Council.

6. *Attending meetings should be considered a privilege rather than a nuisance.* There is no doubt if the Council's business is important to its members, they will look forward to meetings. However, the choice of the meeting time does, in some instances, affect campers' attitudes towards the Council. For this reason, one would hardly want to schedule a Council meeting at the same time that the rest of the campers are attending a camp circus. Although this may be a far-fetched example, sometimes we do schedule meetings when the rest of the campers are engaged in the kind of activity Council members would also enjoy. At one camp, early breakfast cook-outs for the Camp Council was found to be the most successful time and method of getting the Council members together to have their meeting. Each camp has to work out the best time in relationship to the particular schedule in the camp.

7. *The Council meetings should take place regularly at the same time and in the same place.* We found that a shifting of meeting times and places tended to cause uncertainty and insecurity amongst the Council members. We found too that the best meeting place was one which was quiet, conducive to discussion, and had some status in the eyes of the campers. The camp Director's office or the staff lounge met this description for us.

8. *There should be a flow from the campers to the Council and from the Council back to the campers.* The Camp Council is a delegate body, and should not become an entity in itself. Yet we found our Camp Council often losing touch with the campers it represented. To insure that this does not happen, reports of Council meetings should always be taken back to the group which the Council member represents; in the same way provisions should be made for the campers to present their ideas to the Council members.

9. *The staff as a whole should feel closely identified with the Council's activities.* Our Revolution
(Continued on page 18)

The Role of Work Camps

By

Edward Miller

American Friends Service Committee,
Philadelphia, Pa.

THE "work camp," arising as it did after the last war, has served as the vehicle for rehabilitation, volunteer service to populations in need, and the establishment or re-establishment of all kinds of community services, international and inter-racial fellowships. The stories of Pierre Ceresole and other early leaders of the European "work camps", the book by Kenneth Holland, *Youth in European Labor Camps*,* the studies by the American Youth Commission of "Work Camps for High School Students" and "Work Camps for College Students", and the increasing body of experience collected by the American Friends Service Committee work camp program, the International Student Service camps, the Associated Junior Work Camps, and other groups give further evidence of the importance of the *work camp* as an educational and sociological phenomenon, a re-creative experience, a training period in work methods, group living and a community service opportunity.

In the ten years of work camps the American Friends Service Committee has had opportunity to discover several important items that relate to the modern "camping program." First, work campers are re-discovering the educational principle that persons learn by doing, and they learn only what they do. In other words, the best learning about others and their problems takes place when one works along with them. One may learn in an arts and crafts class to make Indian moccasins, but it takes an entirely different kind of knowledge to help plan and develop footwear for evicted sharecroppers who live on the edge of the delta in Missouri, who have no shoes or money to purchase them. An immediacy, a reality, and an urgency not present in the best plans of progressive schools or laboratories enter the learning process.

Second, persons learn, as we have hinted above, more readily when there is a *terse reality* and a sense of need connected with the learning process. That is why the most successful work camps are those where there are jobs to be done with the persons in the vicinity participating, that would not otherwise get done. The clinic at Cropperville, the power dam at North Weare, the playgrounds from empty lots in Chicago, are evidence of this immediacy and reality. It is this subtle difference in the reality of the situation that is pointed out in the book by Hugh Hartshorne and others, on character building organizations. The 4-H club program is given the highest rating as a character-forming organization, largely

because the chickens raised, dresses made, potatoes grown, and so forth, are raised, made or grown out of the background of needed family income and probable future vocational undertakings of the boy or girl.

Third, the work camp program has enhanced the place of physical work in modern culture. We are victims of the "white collar" philosophy. Highest value is placed today on professional training, desk and clerical work and administrative jobs. To be the tillers of the soil, the milker of the cows, or the grease-covered mechanic, has not been the noblest work to which parents could direct children. "I don't want my son to labor as hard as I had to" or "I don't want my daughter to slave with feeding and caring for a large family like I did." Thus, we have vitiated the educational systems, the work attitudes, the community mores until we produce persons trained only to live by "their brains" alone, refusing to participate in "physical work", inexperienced in homely chores related to food, clothing and shelter provision.

Further, the philosophy of physical work permits those of varying backgrounds to speak a mutually understood language. The student at an eastern theological seminary can never learn to realize the problems of the evicted sharecroppers in Missouri as completely by any known method of sociological and religious investigation or organizational approach as he can by sawing and hammering under the hot summer sun, day after day, with those same sharecroppers, together creating in the community a clinic building where babies may arrive safely, illnesses be attended, and public health facilities be made available. The camper's knowledge and experiences are also first-hand. He knows sharecropper problems specifically as well as more generally. His knowledge is tinged with the living vitality of actual human persons. The social, economic and religious problems of

* Holland, Kenneth, *Youth in European Labor Camps*, American Council on Education, Washington, D. C., 1939. Price: \$2.50. Holland, Kenneth, "Work Camps for High School Youth", American Council on Education, 1941, co-author with George L. Bickel. Holland, Kenneth, "Work Camps for College Students", American Council on Education, 1941. Price: \$.25.

those people are brought out of the atmosphere of impersonal and misty figures about "masses of people."

Finally, the work camp as a method of camping is a service project. This means that the participants, though many times only vaguely and potentially, join the camp primarily to "do something for other people." Any pleasure or self-development derived in the process comes as accompanying overtones, or secondary developments. This is a sound procedure from an educational point of view. In terms of spiritual growth, it means the camper's self is directed to the needs of "others" first, and his own "selfish" desires are sublimated. It is from this service aspect of the work camp that growth seems to spring.

Several additional items arise from the work camp program that are important for camping programs. One of these is the relation of the work done in camp to the formal educational programs. Personality growth of a girl or boy is the important item, regardless of where it takes place. Much schooling has limited education to "book learning." The work camp experience when used as a part of a college credit seminar may greatly further the educational

growth of the person involved.

Another value arising from this program is the kind of group life that develops in the close-knit, cooperative group in which leadership is shared in a democratic fashion. The camp work program, camp housekeeping duties, and the educational program, all blend together in planning, executions and participation. The leadership problem is simplified, for each person in camp must carry his proper share.

Work camps for the American Friends Service Committee for 1943 will operate in tension areas related to disinherited people, migrant problems, and inter-racial relations. The camps for 1943 are as follows: Chicago Work Camp, which is located in a Negro housing community; Indianapolis, where the campers will work on a new Negro community center building; Wolfe County, Kentucky, where the project is repairing school houses in this mountain county; Southeastern Missouri, which will be connected with sharecroppers; and two junior work camps, one of which will do agricultural work in New Jersey and the other in Vinalhaven, Maine, among the fishing people.

Wes Klusmann and Frederick Lewis New Officers in the A.C.A.

Section presidents have already been notified of the election of Mr. Wes Klusmann as the new President of the American Camping Association and Mr. Fred Lewis as Vice-President.

Mr. Klusman is an able successor to Mr. Taylor Statten, who has served the Association for the past two years. As Director of Camping and Activities for the Boy Scouts of America, Mr. Klusmann's work takes him to many sections of the country. It is hopeful that he will be able to meet with many sections of the American Camping Association. In the next two years when section strength and nationwide cooperation are essential, his leadership will be invaluable to the whole camping movement.

Formerly a Scout Executive of the Los Angeles Council, Mr. Klusmann was also President of the Pacific Camping Association for two years. He has planned, developed and administered camps since 1921. Active for several years as the Boys' Work Director of the Church of All Nations in Los Angeles, he also served as Executive Secretary of the Woodcraft League of America. In his present position on the national staff of the Boy Scouts he gives leadership to providing advisory services to Local Councils on all phases of administration and program for Boy Scout Camps and the promotion of a year-round pro-

gram involving camping, special events and civic service.

Mr. Frederick H. Lewis, director and owner of the Vistamont Camps at Bristol, New Hampshire, since 1932, is at present on the staff of the national organizations section of the Office of Civilian Defense, Washington, D. C. He has served as secretary of the New England Section of the A.C.A. and has had several years of teaching experience at the University of Kansas, Bates College, and Simmons College. As Program Chairman for the A.C.A. he was the chairman of the Alexandria Conference held in Alexandria, Virginia last fall. His contact with various government officials in Washington will aid in keeping the members of the A.C.A. informed on government regulations pertaining to camping.

Minimum Age Set for Farm Labor

There still seems to be some confusion between the two to four hours' work as a regular camping activity for educational purposes, and work as part of the total farm camping force, with at least eight hours' work a day. Statement on standards issued by the Children's Bureau have set 14 years as the minimum age for farm labor.

Youth Hostels and Camps Cooperate

By

Peggy Watts

American Youth Hostels, Northfield, Mass.

MANY camps have already made themselves a part of the Youth Hostel movement by sponsoring and establishing youth hostels as supplements to their camps. Certainly this is a significant step toward the greater co-operation that is needed between the different recreational agencies who share the responsibility of furthering the development of a wholesome, effective, dream-filled humanity.

After the war recreation will not only be important; it will be *recognized* as important. With a significant part in the future world awarded to recreation, the co-operation of agencies with coinciding ideals is especially vital. The ideals of camps and youth hostels do coincide, though each has its special function.

The mutual advantages derived when camps add to their regular set-up Youth Hostel annexes to welcome traveling campers, have been proved by those camps who have already done so. Youth hostellers are brought in direct contact with the fine work of the camps, and the campers are interested in the hikers and bikers who come and go every day. Sometimes in work camps it is the campers themselves who build bunkrooms and shelters for the hostellers.

Naturally there is created on both sides a more comprehensive awareness of the values of out-door life and a greater consciousness of the trend toward more worthwhile recreation. This awareness is the foundation for the inevitable expansion and a more widespread development of simple living in the out-of-doors. The values resulting from this first-hand outdoor experience have proved to be all-encompassing in building sturdy bodies, in giving youth the experience of harmonious, co-operative living, in filling in the gaps left by the inadequacies of formal education, and in introducing youth to nature, the elements, and to more abundant living.

But what does establishing a youth hostel involve? First of all there must be the minimum facilities, separate bunkrooms or sleeping quarters with blankets and separate toilets for boys and girls, plus a common kitchen equipped with cooking utensils. Usually there is a recreation room or an outdoor fireplace. The sleeping capacity is entirely up to the sponsors. A hostel may accommodate ten or a hundred. The location in relation to other hostels or in relation to special attractions such as mountains or lakes, usually determine what is the most practical size. The lay-out is never elaborate; it is simple and easy to scrub, for hostellers themselves take care of the hostel. Each one has an individuality of its own.

A charter from the American Youth Hostels, Inc.,

is granted when the minimum requirements for health and sanitation have been fulfilled, and after the field worker for the region has approved of the "houseparent" who is to be in charge of the hostel. The hostel is then put into the AYH Handbook, the guide which all hostellers carry with them. This book, published the first of every May, lists all hostels in the United States, the names of the house-parents, the location of hostels with key maps showing approximate positions, directions for reaching, nature of facilities as well as items of especial interest to hostellers, such as square dance calls, songs, menus, first aid, or the history of hosteling.

The charge for overnight at all hostels is uniform, twenty-five cents per night with an additional fuel charge of five or ten cents. Income which seldom amounts to more than maintenance or living expenses for the houseparent, is kept by them.

All hostellers must have passes which cost one dollar for those under twenty-one and two dollars for those twenty-one or over. These are given to the houseparent on arrival and signed and returned the next morning if the hosteler has maintained hostel standards and customs, which include no smoking, no drinking in the hostels, lights out by ten p.m., early risings and leaving the hostel clean and neat for the next group of travelers. Every hosteler must also carry a sheet sleeping sack for the protection of the hostel's blankets.

Houseparents will testify that hostellers are the "finest people in the world." AYH has found that there is no problem of "undesirables" using the hostels, for the requirement that every hosteler travel in the out-of-doors under his own steam attracts a healthy, co-operative group of adventure lovers. Anyone from 4 to 94 may take out a youth hostel pass.

The 15,000 who are passholders are a mixture of professions, ages and backgrounds, but they all have in common a youthful spirit, and an enthusiastic faith in simple living. Especially since the war have older people, couples and whole families vacationed the youth hostel way.

The steady increase in the number of hostellers,

(Continued on page 18)

Outdoor Cooking for the Duration

By

Barbara Ellen Joy

Joy Camps, Hazelhurst, Wisconsin

EDITOR'S NOTE: The author of this article wishes to express her appreciation to the following people who have helped to supply information to her: Miss Dena Cederquist of the University of Wisconsin, for five years a valued staff member of The Joy Camps; Miss Flora Morrison, of Windy Pine Point Camp in Canada; Mrs. Ruth C. Prouty of the Girl Scouts of Los Angeles; Miss Georgia E. Mills of the Camp Fire Girls at Eureka, California; and Miss Catherine Hammett of the National Staff of the Girl Scouts in New York City.

Suggestions for the Use of Low and Unrationed Food; Makeshift Equipment; Edibles Along the Trail.

CAMP directors are having their troubles these days but so far none have appeared which can't be licked by applying generous doses of energy, diligence, and ingenuity. I believe the obvious necessity to modify camping towards simplicity without impairment of essential standards is a blessing to our movement. Many have been going it pretty high, wide and handsome in these past several years and the path taken has more than once lead us astray. Now we are thrown back on our own resources; our range for trips confined to the miles we can traverse under our own steam, our tinned, packaged and pre-cooked trip foods missing, and many of the old familiar stand-bys, like bacon, drawing high ration points. Outdoor cooking at its thriftiest has always been more expensive in proportion than feeding campers en masse. Yes, of course it was well worth it! But now we are faced with a *really* tough problem.

The times demand that primitive outdoor living be re-vitalized and emphasized as never before in our history. This means that some of us *must* revise our ideas about the whole question of camping out skills, equipment, outdoor cookery, and trips. Briefly, much more time, attention and emphasis must be given to acquiring at or near the main camp site the homely, *basic* skills and knowledges which any camper who pretends to be a tripper should have.¹ Campers do not object to practicing tennis strokes, dives and riding techniques. Neither will they object to practicing the more difficult arts of use of knife and axe, fire-building, and dozens of the other essential campcraft techniques. New types of equipment must be utilized, especially for outdoor cooking. We'll have to "cook" now, not just open cans and build something more complicated than the simplest of heating-up fires. Perhaps of all the blessings this situation

brings, this is the greatest. For now counselors and campers will have the ineffable satisfaction and pleasure of actually producing good meals by themselves, and *not* by virtue of the can opener. This will mean there will be more pausing at camp sites and portages, and

not quite so much headlong dashing through the woods and waterways to chalk up mileage. We shall even become better acquainted with our immediate environment, now that we cannot whisk campers miles away by motor trucks to what may have been greener pastures only in our unimaginative adult minds. Mastery of fuels and of fires must be learned, ingenious devices worked out, great attention given to the real essentials of camping out, and great fun and enjoyment derived through leisurely outdoor "puttering". The adults will be the ones who must change their trip attitudes and ambitions. Most campers up to now have been "taken" on trips by oldsters. Perhaps now campers can be afforded the time and opportunity to learn some of the secrets of woods ways. In a philosophic vein, Mr. Aldo Leopold of the University of Wisconsin, in an extremely thought-provoking article, refers to this side of outdoor life as the "split-rail value".² This seeking and learning, to my mind, has been and always will be, the great fundamental reasons behind this urge for primitive camping and trips.

Many of us have probably been wasteful in our outdoor cooking. By that is not meant actually "throwing away" good food, but loss from improper packing and care on trips, and from preparing dishes imprudently. Standard cooking methods must be carefully studied and then ingeniously adapted to the outdoor situation. An example of this is the "panning" method now in vogue of cooking directly over the fire in a covered pan shredded or finely cut fresh vegetables with a minimum of fat. Especially adapted to this approved method are summer squash, cabbage, beets and carrots, all of which can be taken

¹ Toward Trailwise Campers, by B. S. Mason. The Camping Magazine, April, 1943

² Wildlife in American Culture, by Aldo Leopold. The Journal of Wildlife Management. Vol 7, No. 1. January, 1943.

easily on trips. Camp craft counselors must check up on the new ideas in extending meats, fruits and vegetables by additions and combinations of other items. We must really study the suggestions for general nutrition and cookery which are being made available on all sides to the public and make a business of applying these to our outdoor cookery problems. If we share this search for new ideas with the campers, so much the better. However, a word of caution. Professional dieticians are unaware of the vagaries of the outdoor fire, of the problems of packing and care of trip foods, and of limitations of equipment, so we must choose carefully in adaptations to our camp fires of the recipes and suggestions made so enthusiastically to the house-bound cook.

Many of our new dishes will be the "one-pot" meal variety. Reflector and Dutch ovens will be used a great deal more than formerly for escalloped and baked dishes. Fresh vegetables and fruits must be used a great deal. Left-overs from the main camp, too small in quantity to use for the larger group, can be used in outdoor meals near the main camp base. This calls for *great care* in the proper care and preservation of foods, for we must never relax a minute on that score. Each camp should thoroughly explore the possibilities of using wild edibles—green, berries, wild fruits. Incidentally, this is *real* nature lore. Those of us on lakes and streams can spend some trip time fishing. Surely a fresh bass or trout is worth a can of tuna any day. This is not a fish story—but in one girls camp the campers themselves catch enough fish from the lake to feed all seventy-five people at least once a week. We can once in a while detach ourselves from the grocery company. Dehydrated and concentrated foods, both the old ones and the new ones which will in time revolutionize outdoor cooking, are not available to civilians in quantity, except the soup mixes.

The amounts of food eaten by growing boys and girls on trips is something to consider seriously. We may well find ourselves in a similar situation to the complaining lumberjacks and miners. However, campers will be somewhat conditioned to new types of foods and combinations by the time they get to our camps and our biggest job will be to provide enough quantity and at the same time, to fulfill nutritional requirements keeping a strict eye on ration values.

In suggesting definite dishes for outdoor cookery during the war period, it must be realized that not only will ration points vary from time to time, but also that there will be great variation in the availability of types of foodstuffs. Local dealers as well as wholesalers must be consulted constantly and advantage taken of national and local surpluses as they occur. It seems best, therefore, to take up various types of foods especially adapted to outdoor cooking in the light of the present situation and point out

ways in which they may be utilized. Standard recipes may be obtained from regular cook books and adapted, as mentioned before. The pamphlets listed at the end will be found of particular help at this time.

Rice, Macaroni, and Spaghetti

These inexpensive and now unrationed foods have always been a stand-by. We have been used to combining them generously with cheese, dried beef, sausage, bacon, canned tomatoes, etc. Now we must be less generous with the protein additions and use fresh tomatoes and other suitable vegetables instead of the tinned. For instance, excellent Spanish rice may be made with fresh tomatoes. Rice, preferably unpolished, can be used as a vegetable as well as for desserts. Rice with raisins, black figs or prunes make a very substantial dessert. Very good rice griddle-cakes may be made for breakfast from cold rice left over from supper.

Eggs

There is certainly cause for rejoicing if eggs remain unrationed and freely available. It is not difficult to carry them on trips¹ and there are dozens of ways to use them effectively, particularly as a substitute for meats. They are particularly good outdoors creamed on toast or on corn flakes or scrambled with a minimum of fat. They are delicious baked in coals in the slightly pierced shell.

Meats, Poultry, Fish

The only tinned meat not rationed as far as we can ascertain are "meat stews containing some vegetables". The ability of these to fill hungry campers is dubious², so not too much reliance should be placed in their use. The fact is that we shall have to get along on our trips without tinned meats and with small quantities of cured and prepared meats, all of which are highly rationed. Dried beef, although high on the ration list, is light and a small quantity goes a long way, especially when combined with rice or macaroni. The wiener, judiciously cubed or sliced thin, can be used the same way. Every dietician will know ways to extend hamburger with dried beans, peas, and lentils, with milk; with vegetables; with breads; and with macaroni, noodles and spaghetti. The ordinary recipe for chili con carne can be changed to a minimum of meat and a greater proportion of cooked kidney beans, fresh tomatoes and onions. Frankly, the outlook for use of meats in outdoor cookery, plain or in quantity, is very poor.

The outlook for fish is brighter. So far smoked and salt fish is unrationed. Creamed cod fish, fish hash, and fish cakes can be made of the latter. Finnan haddie, plain boiled or creamed, is an example of the

¹ Packing Food for Trips. The Camping Magazine, May 1940.

² Special Foods for Trips. The Camping Magazine, May 1942.

former. Campers now should fish for food as well as for fun. Fresh fish can be made into chowder, planking or cooking in ashes in wet papers or in clay.

Poultry, although unrationed, is not well-adapted to tripping in hot weather. Either fresh or partially pre-cooked it requires exact refrigeration and it is dangerous to take chances without such. However, for outdoor suppers and special day trips near the camp base there is nothing campers like better than to roast chickens on a spit, broil them over coals, or just plain imu them with vegetables. In fact, a whole day of pleasant activity can revolve around a day trip with barbecued or imued chicken as its central feature.

Dried Beans, Peas, etc.

In this category we find good news for the outdoor cook. Their chief uses are in soups, in baked dishes, and "loaves", and as extenders. Although these articles are on the ration list, they are relatively low and there is not an ounce of waste. There is nothing more substantial for hungry campers than a good, old-fashioned yellow or green split pea soup, flavoured with a bit of diced salt pork or bacon, or with a couple of pork feet or cubed wieners or a ham-bone. Chopped onions, carrot and potatoes can also be added to such a soup. Bean soup is equally good. If both are accompanied by an ample supply of johnny cake cooked in a reflector or Dutch oven and a big supply of cold slaw, no better outdoor meal could be devised. Lima beans, soaked overnight or perhaps boiled, make a wonderful baked dish. One very good recipe is to bake the well-soaked limas with fresh tomatoes, flavoured with a dash of mustard, a bit of onion, and some meat drippings in a reflector oven. Or they can be baked with other vegetables and a bit of salt pork or bacon; or bits of left-over ham added. Soy beans can be cooked in the same way. A fine lima loaf can be concocted of the boiled beans, plus onion, eggs, bread crumbs and evaporated milk. Black-eyed peas, frijoles, red kidney beans, and pinto beans all have their uses, too. It is safe to say that the bean-hole will be overworked for the duration.

Vegetables and Greens

Fresh vegetables also add a bright spot to our picture and on them we must depend increasingly, both outdoors and in. Fortunately practically all root vegetables and many green vegetables are well adapted to trips. We shall use these vegetables raw, in salads, in soups, and as extenders, as well as in their more familiar guise. Carrots, white and yellow turnips and cauliflower are delicious raw. There are many splendid combinations which are easy to prepare and delicious to eat as salads. Many of these may be found in *Woodland Cookery* and in various newspaper articles and pamphlets. Cabbage will

come into its own on camping trips at last, for there is no leafy vegetable that can be used in so many satisfactory ways on the trail, alone and in combination with raw or cooked vegetables, raisins, etc. We must reckon also with old-fashioned Irish or vegetable stew. One such excellent recipe calls for one to two pounds of cracked shin bones, one and one-half pounds shin of beef cubed and one cup each of five or six chopped or diced vegetables plus seasoning. Follow the usual cooking procedure. This will serve eight. The use of vegetables as extenders for meat dishes has already been mentioned. The little hard-shelled green squash are very good baked in coals.

Potatoes, white and sweet, deserve a special paragraph, for they are relatively cheap, easy to carry, and are filling. Sweets or yams may be baked in ashes, boiled in their jackets, combined with apple and brown sugar into a delicious reflector oven dish. Potato soup with onion is excellent. Miss Cederquist recommends a hot potato salad made by frying two or three wieners sliced thin in the fat from two slices of bacon (cut in small pieces). Diced onion is browned in this and then three large cooked potatoes, one hard boiled egg, two T. vinegar and salt and pepper added and all heated through thoroughly. This makes four generous servings and stretches the meat content considerably. Potatoes and onions can be boiled together and when two-thirds done a few fresh tomatoes added, plus salt and pepper and some bacon drippings for seasoning. Potatoes boiled in their jackets are a fine base for frizzled or creamed dried beef, and for various gravies and meat and vegetable sauces.

The greens—spinach, Swiss chard, kale, endive, turnip, and leaf lettuce in the cultivated class, and dandelion, mustard, lambs quarters, dock, miner's lettuce, milkweed sprouts, fern fiddleheads, etc. in the wilding class—are worthy of consideration for shorter trips. Wherever the wildings are available, they are indeed a delicious adjunct to any meal. Personally, I am very partial to dandelion greens, to milkweed sprouts and to miner's lettuce, with which we became acquainted briefly this past winter in California. There are three ways to use these greens. First, cooked (not too long, though); second, shredded raw either alone or combined with grated carrots, bits of onion and served with a tart French dressing; third, wilted. To wilt one of these greens, the leaves are shredded not too fine, two slices of bacon are cut in small pieces and fried crisp, and one-half cup of vinegar added. When this is very hot, it is added to the greens and the whole quickly tossed. Endive is very good cooked in the whole head. Should the greens become a bit wilted in transit, they may be freshened by putting them in cold water.

Breads and other Cereals Not Already Covered

At this time canned breads (nut, date, raisin,

brown, etc.) and fruit cakes and fruit puddings are unrationed. The breads are not particularly practical for trail appetites but the fruit puddings make a very substantial dessert. French toast with syrup or brown sugar or jam is a good outdoor dish, either for breakfast or for dessert. Corn meal is one of the finest trip foods.¹ It is so easy to bake biscuits, muffins, simple cakes and cookies, fruit cobblers and upside down cakes in reflector ovens that the carrying of store bread on trips should never be necessary. Pancakes, plain and fancy, and very fancy, are good and filling.

Sweets and Miscellaneous

We need unusual amounts of sweets on trips and fortunately jams, jellies, marmalades, fruit butters and preserves are all unrationed. Now we should pack trip quantities of all these from the main supply at camp and not try to take them in original small tins or in glass. Nuts and nut meats are also unrationed and should be used more abundantly—in breads, puddings, pancakes, etc. Peanut butter is more than ever a godsend to the tripper. Cottage cheese (unrationed) is another very satisfactory item to remember in planning shorter trips. It is too bad that we shall have to cut down some on the use of American and longhorn cheeses, for they are such a good substitute for meats and so easily adapted to trip cookery. We must use more corn and cane syrups and molasses as sweeteners on top and in the actual cooking.

Desserts

Many of us get bogged down when it comes to planning varied desserts for trips. However, we think the following list of possibilities will encourage trip planners and perhaps bring some new eating enjoyment to the trippers as well.

Fruit, oatmeal and molasses cookies
 Corn starch, tapioca puddings
 Fruit cakes and puddings
 Pan cakes (berry, raisin, etc.) with apple sauce, cinnamon and sugar, jams, fruit butters, syrups, etc.
 Large apples scooped out and filled with waldorf or fruit salads
 Candied or roast apples
 Upside down cakes
 French toast with jelly or jam
 Apple sauce whip with custard sauce
 Simple cakes
 Some Mores
 Fresh fruit, as is or in salads
 Sweeter muffins with raisins, berries, etc.
 Bread twists with jam
 Biscuits with honey butter
 Corn meal Brown Betty
 Old-fashioned Indian pudding with molasses
 Dried fruits
 Sweetened condensed milk pudding (boil unopened can three hours)
 Stewed rhubarb or pie-plant
 Cobblers, cottage puddings, berry short-cakes

Large Group Cookery

Gone are our steak barbecues, along with large roasts, spare-ribs and other highly rationed meats. However, wiener roasts on a large scale can still be

managed, and chicken barbecues and imus are still possible. Bean hole beans are a fine fare for large groups, as are large scale fish chowders or fish fries.

Health Foods

Mrs. Prouty, a person with considerable experience in outdoor cookery, has written that she is going to investigate the use of "Health Foods" as substitutes for meat and meat products in stews, chowders, loaves, patties, etc. Such products are sold in special stores in the larger cities and are in general vegetarian products used directly as meat substitutes in cases of special diets. We have no experience in this line but it may be something worth investigating. Mrs. Prouty enclosed a sheet of recipes put out by the Loma Linda Food Company at Riverside, California. The Vegetable Juice and Products Company, 480 E. Main Street, Rochester, N. Y. also issues a lengthy catalogue of such products, including many special foods made of soya beans.

* * *

Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

Meat for Thrifty Meals. Ten cents.

Office of Information, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington.

Prepared by Bureau of Home Economics. Sample copy of each free.

Root Vegetables in Low-cost Meals

Green Vegetables in Low-cost Meals

99 Ways to Share Meat

Honey and Some of its Uses

Dried Fruits in Low-cost Meals

Egg Dishes at Low Cost

Soy Beans for the Table

Dried Beans and Peas in Low-cost Meals

Potatoes in Low-cost Meals

Girl Scouts, Inc., 155 East 44th St., New York City

Woodland Cookery. No. 20-604. \$.35

New York City Dept. of Markets, New York City.

175 Ways to Prepare Vegetables. One-three-cent stamp.

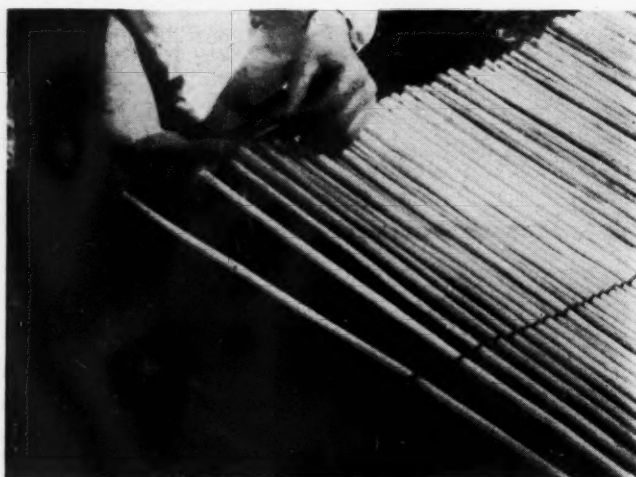
Makeshift Equipment

The very year in which we must turn in an exceptional job of outdoor cooking activity may find us short of the necessary equipment. We have been interested for a long time in the making of makeshift equipment and eventually we hope to get our notes together and pass them along. We do know, however, that satisfactory kettles, pans, reflector ovens and practically all types of necessary cooking gear can be turned out by ingenious use of tins and other scrap materials. It seems to us that it would not be unpatriotic to use a small portion of our camp tin scrap for such a worthy purpose. Tents, knapsacks, ground cloths, sleeping bags, food packing and carrying equipment, and the many other types of gear necessary for a safe and sane campcraft program can be made right at camp by campers as part of the craft program. In this brief note on the subject, three ideas only will be presented. Most of us are familiar with making a handy little stove out of a No. 10 tin. But it remained for Mrs. Prouty to suggest a way in which

(Continued on page 19)

¹ Special Food for Trips. The Camping Magazine, May, 1942.

MAKE AN INDIAN WILLOW BED



THIS is a fine summer's project for a youngster, but not something you can make "all at once." It requires at least 150 willow (dogwood, viburnum, or other woods may be used, but are heavier) wands about the size of a pencil and 30 inches long. Don't make them larger in diameter unless you want a hard bed! While constructing it, you will never believe that such slender material will hold your weight, but when stretched and tied, considerable strength is added. I made a bed using small wands for the foot, and larger ones near the middle and top. Now I use the foot for the head because it's "softer!"

The material is carefully peeled and smoothed with a knife, and then the rods are bound tightly together in a faggot (to keep straight) until used. When you finally have enough collected and prepared, get some stout fish line or other small cord and stretch two pieces (more than the length of the bed) across between a couple of logs; these strings are for fastening the ends of the rods, which incidentally should be pierced with a red hot nail or otherwise, at each end. If the ends are not made fast, the sticks will later roll around when you reverse the bed to take out the sag which develops eventually with use. Now divide the distance between the two outer strings into three parts, and between them, put in two double strings somewhat longer than the outer two. The illustration shows one of these pairs, the strings of which are crossed (like in weaving) each time a new rod is added to the others. The lacing strings (smaller than the others) are passed spirally around the outer cords. To start, tie one end of a lacing string to a cord, pass it through the hole in the end of a rod, then tightly around the cord, through the hole in the end of the next rod and so on. (Details in Mason's *Woodcraft*).

When the bed is long enough to suit you (stretch

By

William Harlow

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it to see), prepare two springy poles a little longer than the stretched bed. These are supported by means of forked stakes driven into the ground, or the ends may be set into notched logs. Now unroll your bed, and stretch it tightly (the poles should be spaced so that they are about 3 inches inward from the ends of the rods). Although you can sleep with only blankets underneath, remember that to the Indian, the willow bed served as springs, and buffalo robes were used on top of it. A mattress cover filled with leaves makes good padding. Perhaps you can find some dry beech leaves. These are especially springy, and were used by the pioneers for bedding. This may have been a carry over from the European custom of using beech leaves in preference to straw which tended to get musty sooner than the leaves.

If you are a "quiet" sleeper you will have no trouble with the bed shifting, but if you roll around much, the bed may work over to the edge of one of the poles and let you down in the center! It helps to pass a few cords around the rods and the pole. The willow bed weighs about seven pounds, and when rolled up, it is readily stowed in a canoe. At least "for the duration," no one can say, "Why not buy a rubber air mattress?"

The willow bed costs practically nothing in dollars and cents, but requires keen observation (in collecting material), a large amount of patience and "stick-to-it-iveness", and some craftsmanship, all virtues it will do campers no harm to cultivate! (P. S.—Don't go to the hardware store and buy dowels.)

New March of Time Film on Camping

The March of Time has recently released a new sound film on camping entitled "Camping Education, the Story of National Camp". It is available in both 16 and 35 millimeter film and in twenty minutes this production portrays the essence of camping education, showing the way it has developed at Life Camps and National Camp. This picture shows how graduate students study the various phases of camping education and learn through first-hand experience how to use their hands to construct needed equipment as well as to plan other phases of a camping education experience. For further information, write to National Camp, Life Camps, Inc., 14 West 49th St., New York City.

FOOD BOX FOR CANOE TRIPS

By

Eugenia Parker

Blazing Trail Camp, Denmark, Maine



THE secret of good camping is like that of good travelling: have enough, have it packed and arranged, leave all non-essentials at home. Travel light. Then and then only will you have the time to enjoy the trip.

The canoe food box, pictured above, has been planned and made for the purpose of convenience. It was constructed from old boxes and crates. Everything is 3/8-inch stock except 3/4-inch end pieces and 1/4-inch reinforcing for the corners. The cover is hinged and fastens with a hasp. When open it may be propped up with a stick and then used as a table top. If desired, rope handles can replace the metal ones but I found that the tray interfered with the using of them.

All menus should be worked out at the base-camp. The food should be measured and packed. All utensils should be checked before leaving camp. A type-written copy should be taped to the back wall of the box. This does not need to be disturbed and is in easy view at all times.

Perhaps you have experienced the irritation of all small articles sifting to the bottom of a bag or box? We have, too. Therefore, the tray was planned to hold all such articles. In this tray there is room for the following:

2 large spoons
1 ladle
1 large knife
1 small knife
1 small spoon
1 small fork
2 telescope forks
1 pan-cake turner
1 can opener
salt and pepper shakers
1 dipper
1 measuring cup
matches in a bottle
1 pair gloves
soap
copper scouring knob

2 dish towels
coil of small rope
First Aid Kit
hatchet and file
map
paper napkins
paper towels
paper bags
toilet paper (in bottom of box)
1 wooden egg box
1 mixing bowl
Carried separately — reflecting
oven, 1 tea pail, 1 kettle, 1
fry pan, 2 thermos jugs for
water.

The food for an over-night trip for eight to ten persons will then fit into the bottom of the box. Menu as planned in the picture:

SUPPER

Spanish Rice
Pickles
Toast, Butter, Tea
Salad:
Cabbage, Carrots, Raisins with
mayonnaise
Hot Gingerbread with Apple
Sauce

BREAKFAST

Stewed Prunes (cooked over
the fire after supper)
Oat Meal with Butter and
Maple Syrup
Bacon
Hot Biscuits
Cocoa

LUNCH

Scrambled Eggs & Corn
Toast & Butter
Pickles (left fr. supper)
Canned Pears
Cookies
Tea

Directions for packing the above are very ably given in an article, "Packing Foods for Trips" by Barbara Ellen Joy, *The Camping Magazine*, May, 1940.

For a long trip with a large group, where quantities of supplies are needed, this box is then used in a different way. For instance: In the morning when equipment is being packed preparatory to breaking camp, all supper materials are assembled and packed into this box with the necessary utensils. On landing, the cook and cookees grab this box and start supper immediately. Blazing Trail passes this food box along to you with our best wishes for a successful trip.

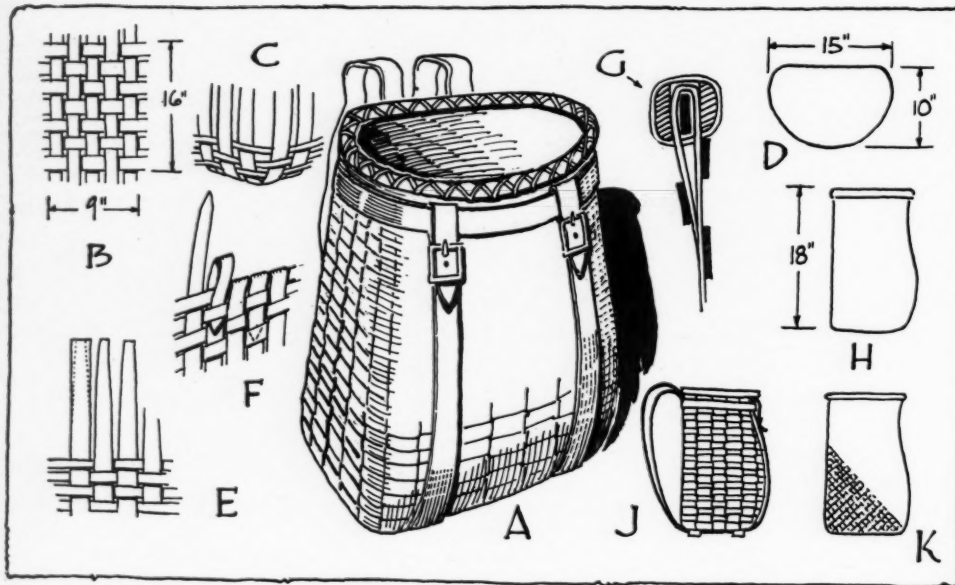
MAY-JUNE ISSUE

After careful consideration of wartime restrictions and the costs of publication for the *Camping Magazine*, a decision to print seven issues a year instead of nine was reached by the Business Management group of the Publications Committee. It was suggested and approved by members of the Executive Committee present that issues be spaced throughout the year to be of most service to camp directors—two in the fall and monthly January through May. The May-June issue, therefore, will be the last issue published until next fall.

Make An Adirondack Pack Basket

By
Fay Welch

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ONE of the first essentials of enjoyable camping and hiking is a useful and comfortable pack. The Adirondack pack basket is a useful and comfortable pack. The Adirondack pack basket, favorite of many veteran campers, is near the top of the list for all-around utility and convenience. If correctly designed, well-made, equipped with a good harness, and not too heavily loaded, this pack can be carried comfortably, even by an inexperienced hiker. And what more appropriate and useful craft can be found for our campers than the making of their own pack baskets to fit their individual needs, just as the Indians of the northern forests did for centuries before the advent of the white man.

Black ash, because its wood after pounding separates into tough, pliable layers, is the best species to use for the making of these baskets. This tree is usually found in swampy situations. It can be distinguished from the white, red and green ashes by the fact that the leaflets, lacking individual stems, are attached directly to the midrib of the compound leaf.

Once the black ash trees are located, the basket-maker must find the right individual tree from which to make the splints for his basket. This is not easy, for often a dozen unsuitable trees must be passed by before a satisfactory one is found. What is needed is a tree that has grown fairly slowly, until it is eight to twelve inches in diameter. It must be straight, symmetrical and free from knots to a height of eight or ten feet.

After you have selected the tree and cut it down, haul the butt log back to camp and remove the bark. It is advisable to wait two or three days before start-

ing to pound out the splints. Then begin, while holding the log firmly, to pound along the top with good sharp blows of the head of the axe over the complete surface from which you plan to peel splints for your basket. Strike squarely so that the sharp edge of the axe head will not break the fibers of the wood.

Soon, if you examine the end of the log carefully, you will observe that the layers of wood are beginning to separate. Each year's growth will peel away from its neighbor, because the cells in the wood which were formed during the period of rapid growth in early spring are large, open and comparatively thin-walled. These cells break down and separate from the small, closely-packed, thick-walled cells of the summer wood, which are not affected by the blows, and remain intact to form the splints. A tree which has grown too rapidly will have wide rings, and the splints will be too thick, or impossible to separate.

With your axe make two longitudinal cuts about two inches apart at the end of the log, one on either side of the strip of splints which you want to remove. Several layers, loosened by your pounding, can be pried up carefully and stripped off together. In removing the first strip, be careful to keep it from becoming narrower. This can be overcome by thorough pounding over an area somewhat wider than the breadth of the strips and by occasionally making longitudinal cuts along the sides of the strips. After additional pounding along each side, the second and third strips can be peeled from either side of the first. They will come off much more easily.

Another method, described by Dr. William M. Harlow in his *Trees of the Eastern United States and*

Canada, consists of working out a piece of wood, some two by three inches in cross-section, with the growth rings exactly at right angles to the longer dimension. Then by pounding along the outer side of this piece, which should be some seven or eight feet long, uniform splints can be easily produced.

Immediately the splints have been separated, they should be cached in a cool damp place, for example, under a tent platform, as even a few minutes of direct sunlight or a few hours of exposure to the wind will destroy their marvelous flexibility.

Select some ten of the best splints, one to two inches wide, and trim their edges smooth. Weave them together near their centers to form the bottom of the basket (figure B). These pieces are turned upward around the edges to form the sides of the basket. A heavy block of wood is sometimes placed upon the bottom of the basket to hold the splints in position. Hold the ends in their upturned position while you weave narrow splints, the circumferentials, in and out among the uprights (figure C). One of the upright splints at the side of the basket must be split to provide an uneven number of uprights, so that the circumferentials, (narrow strips), may alternate with each other in their "under and over" pattern.

The narrow strips used as circumferentials are made by splitting the wider ones with a jackknife. They should be about half an inch wide. The strips should be spliced by shaving the ends thin, pointing them, and overlapping the adjoining ends.

As you weave, the corners of the basket may become slightly rounded. This does no harm as long as the back, which is to be against the body, is kept flat. Enlarging the diameter of the basket as you work up can be done by continually bending the wide splints outward while being careful not to draw the narrow ones too tight. To make the basket smaller at the top, draw the narrow splints tighter as you weave, and trim off the edges of the wide splints whenever they come too close together.

As you reach the top, make the last narrow strip close upon itself around the basket, after being tapered to a point. Cut off each of the wide, upright splints some four or five inches above the top circumferential and point and shave the ends (Figure E). Fold them over, toward the inside or outside, depending upon their position, so that they will make a loop over the last circumferential. Tuck the ends beneath the lower circumferentials (figure F).

Rent-free 16mm sound motion pictures released by the Office of War Information and the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs may be obtained by writing The Princeton Film Center, Princeton, N. J. There is a small handling charge on each, and the user pays the transportation both ways, but it is possible to obtain an hour's program of the latest films for \$1.50 to \$2.

THE SCIENCES

Their Use in the Development of New Camp Program Activities

By Paul Weinandy

"It's going to rain tomorrow!

The sun sure is drawing a lot of water."

THE faces of the little group of campers had become tense and worried as our Indian cook forecasted the weather for their over-night hike. She was a good cook. Her stories about her tribal customs and personalities were fascinating, her predictions about the weather were always taken seriously but more than once proved false.

Weather plays such an important part in our program, it is often uppermost in our minds and any counselor who can give or who can interpret the signs of the sky and relate it to his weather predictions is as popular as the medicine man in an Indian tribe. In writing this article I was drawn between two approaches. At first I had hoped to enumerate some of the time honored weather forecast rules and then suggest some applications of semi-scientific facts and instruments in the forecasting of weather in camp. I was also debating whether I could ignore the revolutionary change which a Norwegian has recently brought about in weather forecasting. I decided against the latter. I know that it means the eventual scrapping of some of our "camp weather lore". However, I am also certain that the new kind of weather forecasting has a romance all of its own which should thrill and inspire our campers.

Have you ever heard of the old Texan saying, "There's nothing between Texas and the North Pole to keep out those Northerners but a barbed wire fence"? Unwittingly our Texan cow punchers have given a true explanation of a Texan norther, for it was hatched at the polar regions and the same air which blows furiously across the plains of Texas is the same air which stood in huge masses over the arctic wastes a week or two ago. The air and wind known as a Nor'easter, wet and cold which plays havoc with the tents of your camp on the New England coast is just a chunk of the Grand Banks off Newfoundland gone on a journey down the continent.

Weather is not really a local affair. It is not even confined to a state or continent. We need to take a much larger view. That view should be global. It is unfortunate that word has been and still is so little understood. It still scares the wits out of a good many of our more solid citizens.

I am challenging the scientific curiosity of our nature counselors and directors to reexamine that phase

(Continued on page 18)

Food Rationing and Transportation News

Classification of Camps: Camps are Institutional Users:

Class I, if fewer than 50 people, on the average, reside in the camp and eat 8 or more meals there a week.

Class III, if more than 50 different people, on the average, reside in the camp and eat 8 or more meals a week there.

Because the instructions with Form R1307 listed summer camps as "typical of Group I establishment", local boards have been classifying them in Group I regardless of the number of people residing there. A recent order has been sent out to local boards placing a camp in 1 or 3, according to the number of people residing in camp as quoted above.

Camps are Seasonal Users: Since camps are classified as "Seasonal Users" unless operated all year around, they may register at any time prior to reopening of camp.

Group I Camps: Operate through the "pooled" war ration book plan. Under present regulations a Group I camp could not secure food until ration books of campers were turned over to him. OPA promises to have an amendment in effect by May 1, 1943, which would permit such camps to purchase possibly two-week's supplies in advance and pay for them with "points" after they were collected.

Group III Camps: Are entitled to an allotment of rationed foods, application Form R 1307 secured at your local Ration Board. Your allotment will be based on:

1. *The last full month during which you served foods.* Any reference to December, 1942 in the printed forms means to a Seasonal Camp User, *the last full month camp was open.*
2. *Number of persons served.* For example: 3 meals a day for 100 people would be figured $3 \times 100 \times 31$ or 9300 persons served. If a fourth meal of milk and crackers or some other snack is served, then it would be $4 \times 100 \times 31$ or 12,400. OPA does not define what constitutes "a meal".
3. *Amount of Rationed Food used in December, 1942 (Last full month).* You should have a record of foods used in your last full month of 1942, which are now on the rationed list. These are figured on the basis of 11, 13 and 18 points per pound as shown in item 13 of Form R1307. If you do not have such a record, consult your local Ration Board. It is necessary in order to obtain meat and other items 17 to 25 on the back page of your application form to present a record of your last full month.

Gross Revenue: Take your food (only) cost per day per person for your last full month and multiply by the average number of people served each day $\times 31$.

Correction of Allowance per Person: There is an error in Form R1307. The allowance per person should be .6, not .06 as printed.

Computing Your Total Allotment: As a Seasonal User, you will need to notify your local Ration Board of the number of days you expect to operate. Otherwise computations are made on a 2-month period.

Exchanges of Goods on Hand: If you are overstocked on certain items of high point value, you may, by agreement with your dealer, exchange items which in total volume have the same point value.

Sugar Allotment: Institutional Users are to be allowed 100% of what they used (bought) last year, if the "last month" used in determining the base was after April, 1942, (date of sugar rationing). If this is not enough, campers can be asked to bring $\frac{1}{2}$ pound per week (his legal ration) to camp.

Coffee Allotment: Institutional Users are to be allowed 85% of the coffee used last year if the base month was August, 1942, or earlier.

Collection of Sugar and Coffee Ration Books: Group 1: You can collect ration books and use the coupons to purchase items or you may require each camper to bring $\frac{1}{2}$ pound sugar per week and such coffee as is needed. Group III: Your regular allotment is based upon the formular OPA form R1307.

Your Responsibility to Notify Parents That You Must Have Ration Book 2. The law requires them to turn over the ration book to you. Stamps, when removed, are to be turned over to the local Ration Board.

Opening a Ration Point Bank Account: The OPA officials in Washington now insist that they do not want camps to open such accounts, especially if the camp does less than a \$5000.00 business in food. Consult your local board as to how this is to be handled.

Watch Your Advance Registration: You must insist upon advance registration of campers and make advance arrangements with your local Ration Board for more food in case your advance registrations indicate an increase in business over the same period last year. Consult your local board.

Two helpful references available at local Ration Boards:
OPA Form Gen. R. O. 5, dated Feb. 18, 1943, general order on processed food rationing for Institutional Users;
OPA Form R1307, the "Registration of Institutional Users".

TRANSPORTATION

Charter Service or Other Special Service: (ODT Order 10A, effective March 1, 1943) No person shall engage in charter service or other special services *except:*

(a) In the transportation hereinafter specified *when such transportation cannot readily be performed by existing facilities and established scheduled services of common carriers of passengers operating over regular routes between fixed termini, to wit:* The transportation of:

(7) Children under eighteen years of age and their attendants, from their homes to summer camps, for the purpose of permitting such children to attend such camps *for periods in excess of one day*, or from such camps to their homes after such periods of attendance: *Provided, however,* that such service may be

given only after written application showing the necessity therefor, has been filed with and approved in writing by a Regional Office of the Office of Defense Health and Welfare Service, Division of Recreation.

Additional Gasoline for the Operation of Summer Camps:

Under Mileage Rationing Order No. 5C, Section 1394.7703 and 1394.7704, supplemental rations are available for occupational mileage. Hence, professional camp directors and those professionally connected with camps are eligible for a "B" book. In many instances this additional gasoline will enable such persons to transfer their automobiles to camp for necessary travel within the vicinity of the camp. In the non-restricted area of the country, occupational mileage amounts to 470 miles per month, while in the gasoline shortage area it is 360 miles per month. The gasoline shortage area includes: Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, North Carolina, South Carolina, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Georgia, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, Virginia, except that portion which lies within the corporate limits of the city of Bristol; the District of Columbia; the portion of West Virginia which lies within and east of the counties of Mineral, Grant and Pendleton; and the State of Florida, except the area which lies west of the counties of Gadsden, Liberty and Franklin.

In addition to occupational mileage, camp directors are entitled to special rations when urgently needed in the case of illness or for procuring necessary food or supplies, if their rations are inadequate for this purpose.

Wage and Salary Ceilings for Camps

All persons employed in camps for one or more months are subject to wage and salary ceiling regulations. The term "casual employee" applies only to those who are employed for a few hours a day, such as a woman who is brought in to clean, at the beginning of the camp season.

1. The regulations deal with positions and with the classifications of workers, rather with the individual. It is the wages for a *certain position or classification* that is regulated, rather than the man who fills it.

2. Go through your list of employees and organize them into job classifications somewhat as follows: Director, Associate, Aquatic Director, Activity Specialists, Doctor or Nurse, Cabin Counsellor, Chef, Ass't Chef, Kitchen Men, Dishwasher, Maintenance Employees.

3. Using your actual pay rates of the past ten years, for example, establish the "High" and "Low" extreme for each position or classification. This "High" and "Low" sets the permitted range for each position or classification. Individual or general adjustments above this range require prior permission.—*New Jersey Section.*

School Lunch and Milk Programs Available to Non-Profit Camps

NON-PROFIT organization or agency camps are eligible to participate in the New Community School Lunch and Milk Programs sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture through the Food Distribution Administration. Under the new local purchase School Lunch plan, the FDA reimburses the sponsors for the purchase price of specified commodities given on a foods list issued from time to time. Although the program now in operation ends June 30, there is good reason to believe that a similar program will be continued. Applications should be made soon to the Food Distribution Administration, State Supervisors, U. S. Department of Agriculture in each state.

When applications are accepted for the Lunch Program, camps are responsible for adhering to the conditions of the agreement governing the operation of the program; proper purchasing, handling, and storage of commodities; proper supervision of the preparing and serving of meals; conforming with all laws pertaining to the serving of food in public places.

How the Lunch Program operates:

1. Sponsor makes application for the program by preparing and signing the application form and agreement with the FDA.
2. If approved, the FDA provides sponsor with a "School Lunch Foods List" which specifies the commodities which may be purchased under the program.
3. The sponsor buys commodities on the list from local farmers, wholesalers, or retailers.
4. At the end of month, sponsor submits invoices of purchases, and report of operations.
5. Claim is paid by check within a few days of its receipt by the Administration. Reimbursements range from 2 to 7 cents per child per meal according to the classification of menus served.

How the Milk Program operates:

1. Sponsor signs an agreement with the FDA agreeing to purchase and distribute milk to the children, assuming responsibility for making all negotiations with dairies, and for providing limited facilities necessary for handling the milk.
2. The FDA agrees to reimburse the sponsor in an amount equal to the farmer's price for the unprocessed milk. The sponsor will pay the dairy for pasteurizing, bottling, and delivery of the milk.
3. The sponsors assume all responsibility for handling costs. To meet them wholly or partly the sponsor may charge each child not more than a penny a half pint for the milk.

U. S. Forest Service Camps

BY RAY BASSETT

Camping organizations or groups may be interested to know of the camp facilities available through the United States Forest Service in the North Central Region including Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri. The Service will grant the use of these facilities for a nominal fee to those non-profit agencies whether public or private which desire to use them to provide low cost vacations.

The government by building these camps has attempted in only a small way to satisfy the need of numerous groups and individuals who have been deprived of forest camping experiences because they could not afford to acquire sites and construct camps of their own. The distinguishing characteristic of organization areas is the fact that they provide facilities for group use at low cost. For a complete description of facilities available, contact the Regional Office, U. S. Forest Service, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Other camp areas less intensively developed are also available in the national forests. Numerous public campgrounds have been developed for family or group use without charge.

The development of the outdoor recreation resources and opportunities of the park areas demands close coordination and correlation between the various public and private agencies. Effort is made not to duplicate those developments available on other public lands or on private lands in the same locality. It is the policy of the United States Forest Service to enhance rather than compete with such activities that are adequate for the public needs.

Youth Hostels

(Continued from page 7)

the greater recognition that educational and recreation specialists are awarding the movement, make the 262 hostels now chartered inadequate to meet the demand.

Camps with their ideal locations are filling up many of the present gaps in the youth hostel network. Much of the expansion of the "travel-under-your-own-steam" movement will be the result of their interest in adding youth hostels to their present set-up, as both camps and the American Youth Hostels prepare in the coming years for the more significant role that each will play in the lives of all Americans, and especially in the education and development of a well-balanced, sturdy youth.

The Sciences, Their Uses

(Continued from page 15)

of the nature program which deals with the phenomena of weather. To what extent do counselors still cling to the high school and college textbook knowledge of barometric Highs and Lows? If you care to explain the weather to your campers I would like to suggest that you acquaint yourself with the new science which is used now exclusively by our commercial air lines and the military high command. This new science of Air Mass Analysis is based upon the work and experiments of the Norwegian scientist Vilhelm Bjerknes. Hitler's campaigns in Russia and the Low Lands were planned and based on the scientific weather forecasting methods of this Norwegian. A nature counselor could take hold of this material and present it at an evening camp fire as he would tell a mystery story. A popularized version of this new scientific method of weather forecasting has been written up by Wolfgang Langewiesche in *Harpers Magazine*, October, 1942, "What Makes the Weather".

I hope, however, that we won't throw overboard our weather folklore. What I hope for is a more intelligent application of the new science to our existing lore in weather forecasting. Let us continue to build barometers, listen in the evening to the frogs croaking in the nearby pond and make our own weather predictions. This is fun but let's go further in interpreting the relation of local signs to the larger phenomena of world-wide weather.

Camp Councils

(Continued from page 4)

taught us that we had not included a sufficient number of our staff in working with the Camp Council. Some of the staff were often as unaware of Council plans as were the campers. This was probably due to the fact that it was the Head Counselor alone who had the responsibility for the activities of the Camp Council. We remedied this situation by making provisions for various staff members to attend Council meetings at different times. Staff members also worked with various Camp Council committees. Although we found it preferable for the Head Counselor to continue to be directly responsible for the work of the Camp Council, he made certain that the rest of the staff was made thoroughly informed about what was happening at meetings.

Yes, our Revolution taught us many things. Most important of all, it taught us that democracy at camp, like every place else, does not just fall like the gentle rain. It must be given thought and consideration, and once achieved, must be given vigilant attention in order to be maintained.

Outdoor Cooking for the Duration

(Continued from page 11)

it can be knocked-down and more easily carried. The top is cut off, and the can cut in three pieces lengthwise. When in use the three pieces are stuck firmly into the ground and the top placed over them. She also suggests using with these stoves two types of emergency candles as fuel, saying each has proved most successful, burning slowly and useable more than one time. The first is a larger edition of the rolled, paraffin-soaked newspaper fire starter.¹ This should be in length about half the height of the can and it will be easier to light if a wick, such as a small candle end, is inserted in the centre of the roll. The other type is made by spiralling cardboard or corrugated paper as tightly as possible inside of a small can, such as a fruit or milk tin. Melted paraffin or wax is then poured in to the top of the cardboard, about a quarter of an inch below the top of the can. This will burn for three to four hours.

Although we see alluring pictures of reflector ovens made from No. 10 tins, we know that the reflecting surface is not right for a first-class job. Mr. Bernard Mason sends in a good idea for a knock-down reflector oven made inexpensively. Five dime store cookie tins or sheets and a dozen wing nuts are the ingredients for this clever gadget. Two of the tins placed on end make the side supports. One tin is placed in the middle between them (edge up) as the tray, and the other two meet this (above and below) at an angle of 45 degrees, with top edge down, the bottom edge up. The wing bolts (four to each pan) are used to bolt these three pieces to the end pans. A canvas bag for the pans and a small bag for the nuts complete this handy stove. Sadly enough, two dime and two hardware stores visited in Iowa City April 22nd could not produce any of these tins. Two adequate reflectors can be made by cutting a square five-gallon tin in two pieces catty-corner. A few wires are then run through holes punched opposite each other in the center of both end pieces, and the baking pan rested on these. Stouter wires may be attached to the back for legs, or the pan can just as well be propped up against rocks or a green log at the back.

Ten and one-half inch tin pie plates are still in the market, and there is nothing better for baking small batches of biscuits than two pie plates or two pans of the same size turned one over the other, like a miniature Dutch oven. The bottom pan is rested on rocks or bricks with coals between them and coals and hot ashes shoveled on the top pan.

Since flashlight batteries will be hard to come by this summer, trippers will be able to make satisfactory substitutes of many shapes and kinds out of can-

¹ Wet Weather Fires. The Camping Magazine, April, 1939.



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FOOD or DRINK

is Your
Business

it's Your
Business

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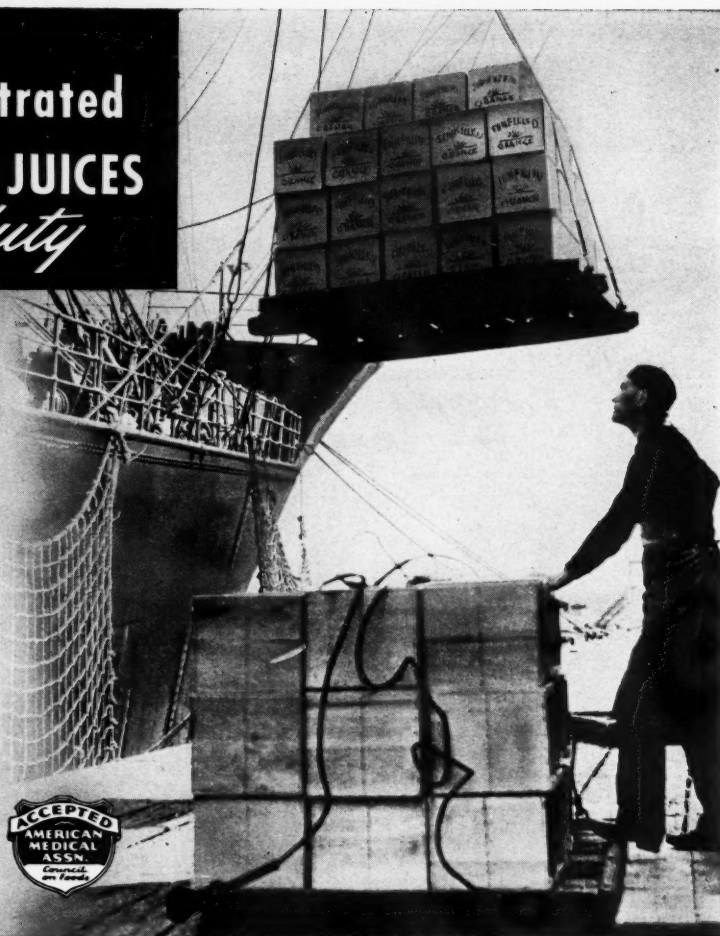
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dle ends and tins. These can be arranged by piercing the bottom or the under side (if the can is to be held lengthwise in the hand by addition of a wire bail) with the sharp edges upward. The candle is thrust through from underneath and the sharp edges impale it so as to hold it steady. The inside of the tins must be kept bright in order to increase effectiveness. The writer would welcome ideas from all campers who would be interested in collaborating further with her in this interesting subject.

For those who wish to really make a good job of producing their own equipment this summer, the following inexpensive pamphlets are recommended:

- The Boy Scouts, 2 Park Avenue, New York City
 - Jamboneering. No. N3690. \$.50
 - Boy Scout Quartermastering. No. N3692. \$.10
 - Camping. Merit Badge Pamphlet No. 3256. \$.20
 - Troop Camping Course Manual. No. 3695. \$.35
- The Girl Scouts, 155 East 44th St., New York City
 - Campcraft A B C's, by Catherine T. Hammett. \$1.00
 - Reprint No. 19-604 from The American Girl. \$.05
 - Reprint No. 10-603 from The American Girl. \$.05
- Outdoor Living, by Dr. E. L. Palmer. Cornell Rural School Leaflet, Vol. 34, No. 4, March, 1941. Cornell University, College of Agriculture, Ithaca, N. Y.

Edibles Along the Trail

In these days, if ever, we should really get down to business on the matter of making the most of every possible item we can find growing wild. So much of this is often at hand but is not taken advantage of

through ignorance, neglect, or emphasis on the more "civilized" program ideas. Certainly this sort of utilization is nature lore at its most practical and realistic level. The following material is personally known by us and is recommended for purchase and use. The last book we have not seen as it is on order for release May 7th:

- Edible Wild Plants, by Oliver P. Medsger. The Macmillan Co., NYC., 1939. \$3.50
- Useful Wild Plants of the U. S. and Canada, by Chas. F. Saunders. Robert McBride & Co., NYC. Revised ed. 1926.
- Some Common Edible and Poisonous Mushrooms. U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Farmer's Bulletin No. 796.
- Camping and Woodcraft, by Horace Kephart. Macmillan Company, NYC. Two vols. in 1 ed. Vol I. p 369-372; Vol II. p. 367-421.
- Bounty of the Wayside, by Walter Wilder. Doubleday, Doran & Co., NYC. 1943.

"To Camp or Not to Camp" in May Esquire

Camp directors will be interested in the article by Hedley S. Dimock, Dean of George Williams College, in the May issue of Esquire Magazine. Dr. Dimock gives six tests by which parents might better judge a summer camp: 1. What are its health standards? 2. What are the qualifications of the camp director? 3. What about the tent or cabin counselor your boy or girl will have? 4. Will your child be treated as an individual or will he be cramped into a set form? 5. Will your child gain new interest in the out-of-doors? 6. Consider the spiritual aspects of the camp.

PURE WATER *Means a* HEALTHY CAMP

Water plays an important role in camp activities. Sailing, fishing, swimming, and other water sports are enjoyed by all. Other less enjoyed but necessary uses for water are dish washing, food preparation, cleaning, etc. However, its most important use, by far, is for drinking. Plenty of clear, cool, sparkling, and PURE drinking water is absolutely essential for all camps.

% Proportioneers, Inc. % can supply you with the necessary chlorinators and chemical feeders to sterilize and treat your camp drinking water supply continuously and dependably, so that it will meet the approval of your local and state health officials. Water borne disease traced to your camp will cost you many times the price of inexpensive % Proportioneers % to protect that supply. Don't wait for priorities to be abolished. Plan and order now, even if unable to get a suitable rating, so that your camp will be one of the first to get % Proportioneers % after the war is won.

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Just Off The Press

Hiking, Camping, and Mountaineering

By Roland C. Geist (Harper & Brothers, Publishers, 49 E. 33rd St., New York City.) Price: \$3.00.

A helpful book for those who plan a vacation in the out-of-doors hiking, cooking out, camping. Includes suggestions for interesting hiking trails in North America, equipment, clothing, etc.

Guides to the Successful Employment of Non-Farm Youth in Wartime Agriculture Protecting the Health of Young Workers in Wartime

Pamphlets, Publication 290 and 291, U. S. Dept. of Labor, Children's Bureau (Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Gov. Printing Office, Washington, D. C.) Price: 5 cents.

A brief summary of the need for health protection in planning work programs for young people. Excellent help for camps planning agricultural programs.

Farm Aides

Booklet, prepared by the Camp Fire Girls, Inc., Girl Reserve staff, National Board Y.W.C.A., and the Girl Scouts, Inc. (Woman's Press, New York City.) Price: 25 cents.

A guide for the training of supervisors and group leaders of girls engaged in emergency farm work. Based on experience of many youth agencies with young farm workers.

The Junior Book of Camping and Woodcraft

By Bernard Mason (A. S. Barnes and Co., 67 W. 44th St., New York City.) Price \$2.00.

Dr. Mason's new book although designed for young readers, will be invaluable for people of all ages because of the conciseness and vividness with which the camping information is presented. Illustrated with drawings and full-page photographs showing camping techniques.

Arts and Crafts: A Practical Handbook

By Marguerite Ickis (A. S. Barnes and Co., 67 W. 44th St., New York City.) Price: \$2.50.

A comprehensive reference book for both beginners and teachers, beautifully illustrated. Carefully written instructions for materials, equipment, and procedures in a wide variety of handicrafts.

HELP WANTED

WANTED—Two very efficient all-round cooks for a summer camp for girls in Maine about twenty-five miles from Portland. Family of about one hundred. Protestants preferred. Time: June 22 to Aug. 25 Write to F.H.M., 15 Wren St., West Roxbury, Mass.

WANTED INVESTOR in younger boys' unit to exclusive small Christian camp near Boston, girls 3 to 8 yrs. Doctors' backing. Established 6 yrs. \$5,000 to \$10,000. will purchase land, buildings, one-half interest in beautiful lake-shore set-up. R. R. Service. Write Box 15. c/o Camping Magazine, 343 S. Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.

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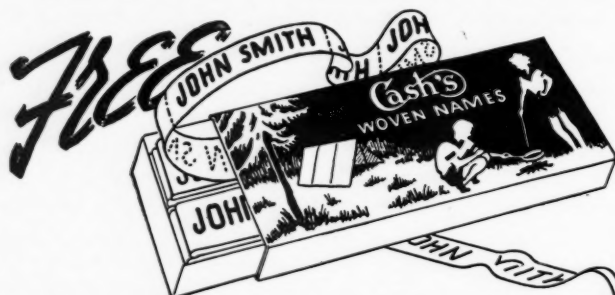
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WOVEN NAMES

Program and People

By

Abbie Graham

WHY NOT TELL THE STORY OF CAMPING?

I found myself recently indulging in modest celebration and pleasant speculation. I had just concluded a year of reading manuscripts for *The Camping Magazine*. I have found that one of the best methods to pursue to get work out of myself is to lay out a stint of endeavor, swear in blood that I will accomplish it, and when I have completed the task, celebrate with myself, using the most suitable liquid which the O.P.A. permits at the time.

The details of this celebration I shall however omit, for I wish rather to discuss the pleasant speculation stirred in me on this occasion. The succession of manuscripts of the year passed before me. Some we had had space to print in the *Magazine*, others we had not. These revealed the story of camping: campers harvesting fruit in California, beans in Maine; campers planting gardens in New York state, hovering over the dark green of spinach, the lighter green of lettuce; campers making packs to cope with the wilderness, sleeping out in rain, carrying canoes on their heads as they sing through long portages in Canada.

The year has convinced me that camping has a story to tell. Our *Magazine* cannot and should not carry the whole of it. The work and play of camps in the 1943 season should find a place in many magazines. Go to any good library or newsstand and survey the extent and variety of the American reading public: professional magazines, trade journals, avocational magazines, sophisticated periodicals, unsophisticated ones, women's reading matter, men's reading matter, young people's literature, farm volumes, city volumes. The variety of the reading public seems unending. The appeal of youth working, playing, growing up in the free and adventurous life of the outdoor world, the home of man until cities shut him in—this appeal is universal. We have a story to tell especially now in wartime when we see more clearly and poignantly what kind of education youth should have had, what kind they will need in the immediate future. We might with effort, stamps and yet greater effort, secure an outlet in the larger magazine world.

The form of presentation would vary with the interests of writers and the demands of readers. Photography lends itself to the telling of the camp story. One person might wish to portray the camp saga of

THE CAMPING MAGAZINE

one camper, showing his enthusiasms and conflicts, his pleasures and conquests. Another might prefer to present the life of a group in action. Well selected captions could carry the thread of the developing interest. Yet others might choose the short story form, or the illustrated article. The narrative article seems especially suitable for depicting camp life.

The busy summer may not be the ideal time for writing but it is the only time for gathering materials, photographs, direct conversation, details of outdoor life, smells, sounds, color, of movement, of persons and events. If anyone has discipline enough to keep a diary and ability to sift out the significant from the momentary, he will have a rich store for winter writing. I have respect for the writer who in January can report from first-hand notes such observation as the following: "Jimmy arrived on Thursday. I cannot forget the way he looked as he sidled out of the bus. In one hand he carried six cigar boxes and an object that might be considered by some a fishing pole; in the other he held the remains of a suitcase hitched together with rusty bailing wire. There was something puzzling about Jimmy, about the way he got out of the bus. The crowd seemed to flow over and under and around Jimmy but no one seemed to step on him. You couldn't step on Jimmy in spite of his being undersized Friday morning I caught up with Jimmy on the trail Jimmy said, "There's things in that suitcase that'd surprise a fellow"

Now that I have invented Jimmy I cannot get on with my story. I do not know what he had in that suitcase, so do not ask me. You decide, that is, if you can write fiction. I cannot. I would swing Jimmy into a narrative article, and try to have him fetch up in the concluding paragraph with some everyday truth about life that had eluded others.

Do not let me seem to suggest here that it would be easy to write the story of camping. Not until you face an orderly pad of paper and a well-pointed pencil do you realize how difficult it is to draw out from your experience an idea for a story, an article, or a personal essay. Instead of one idea, there will be two, three, or more. The newest idea looks greener, more alluring. You see-saw between the various possibilities. You may be reduced to a non-productive vacuum.

But do not give up at this point. In my opinion this is the most difficult work connected with writing, this decision on the central idea and getting it launched in the first paragraph, a paragraph that catches the attention of your reader, sets the tone, suggests the theme. With such a beginning you can move into the body of your material and eventually come through to your interpreting and summarizing conclusions.

I once did not believe in the exhortations of dull

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rhetoric text books but now I do believe. I give great credence to the necessity for a beginning, body and end in any form of writing. I have become enthusiastic over unity and coherence. They have great meaning. These dusty pages of composition and rhetoric texts can help us take a camper like Jimmy, persuade him to unlock his secrets before our eyes, and make him live forever with us.

We could, I believe, write the story of camping, if we set our teeth into the rich data at hand in every camp. Thus I speculated as I sat in the April sun celebrating a year of manuscripts.

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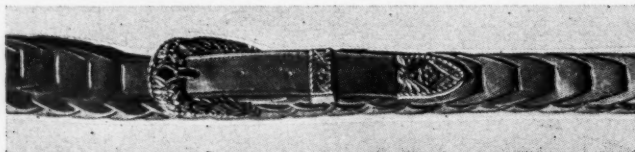
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